

Introduction

In this year's issue, we offer a mosaic of topics related to literature and society, exploring both contemporary and distant phenomena. The main theme is the 75th birthday of Pippi Longstocking – a character who entered literature in 1945, but whose topicality and popularity have not diminished. Pippi – an iconic heroine of children's literature, who opened new paths for it – is constantly read anew, as is shown by numerous studies on her. The figure of the remarkable red-haired rebel has been interpreted and reinterpreted many times, and therefore this time we tried to present her in a slightly different light, focusing primarily on the co-author of the Pippi phenomenon – Danish illustrator, Ingrid Vang Nyman. Those interested in the subject are directed to the first article of the volume, where in *The Heroine of the Nursery. "Pippi Longstocking" as a Voice of Ideological Revolution in Children's Literature* Anna Maria Czernow introduces us to the multi-faceted nature of Pippi's character and explores her uniqueness. This analysis offers an excellent basis for further reading – an article by Anita Wincencjusz-Patyna *Ingrid Vang Nyman and Pippi Longstocking, or about Pippi – a child rebel – and Pus – a Danish artist who revolutionized Swedish children's literature*. This insightful analysis, supported by numerous references to previous research, demonstrates the innovative style of Vang Nyman and its relationship with the avant-garde of the 1930s and 1940s. You can find out more about the artist's participation in creating Pippi's image in a review by Hanna Dymel-Trzebiatowska of two Swedish books: *Ingrid Vang Nyman. En biografi* (2016) by Lena Törnqvist and *Vår Pippi – vår Vang. Tecknarna hyllar Ingrid Vang Nyman och det moderna genombrottet inom svensk barnboksBild* (2016) edited by Ulla Rhedin and Gunna Grähs. Both titles introduce us to this talented illustrator and painter: her life and career, and the influence she had on other artists. These books are not known on the Polish market, and that is why selected extracts from them can be read in this issue in the section entitled *Ingrid Vang Nyman in Three Instalments*, translated by students from the Scandinavian Literatures Translators' Student Society.

In addition to materials related to the jubilee of Pippi Longstocking, the reader of this issue of *Studia Scandinavica* will also find three articles devoted to the classics of Scandinavian literature. Thomas Seiler draws on nineteenth-century Norwegian prose, interpreting the metaphorical function of snow in an enliven-

ing way in the novels *Sne* (Snow) by Alexander Kielland and *Familien paa Gilje* (The Inhabitants of Gilje) by Jonas Lie. Katarzyna Szewczyk-Haake convincingly maps out the intertextual connections between the poems of the Swedish Nobel Prize winner Pär Lagerkvist, which she has translated herself, and the poetry of Michelangelo Buonarroti. Krystyna Szelałowska, on the other hand, reads Henrik Ibsen's early dramas from the perspective of a historian of ideas, setting them in the context of the historiosophical concepts of Romanticism. The last article in the "Literature and Translation" section is an article by Laura Santoo, introducing the reader to the world of the Finnish comic book *Villimpi Pohjola* (Northern Overexposure) and commenting on selected translation strategies used in its translation into English.

In the "History and Society" section, much attention is paid to the Second World War and its consequences for both the Nordic region and Poland. Emilia Denkiewicz-Szczepaniak introduces an important element to our image of the post-war history of Polish diplomacy, discussing the activities of the Polish mission in Oslo in the turbulent years 1946–1947. Krzysztof Kubiak's article describing a conflict between Norway and Denmark, which took place in Greenland during World War II, supplements our knowledge about the struggle of the Nordic countries for influence in the Arctic, a struggle which has been going on since the nineteenth-century polar expeditions. The section ends with an article by Sylwia Hlebowicz, which sets out information about the Kven people, an ethnic minority living in Norway, whose political and cultural ambitions have come to the fore more and more clearly since the beginning of this century.

In accord with the principles of our journal, we present a selection of the latest publications emerging from the developing field of Polish Scandinavian Studies (broadly defined). The books discussed in this issue include:

- the autobiographical reflections of the founder of Scandinavian Studies in Gdańsk, Zenon Ciesielski, entitled *Zapisane w pamięci, czyli meandry mojego życia. Autobiografia* (Written in Memory, or the Meanderings of My Life. An Autobiography), which contains, among other things, the author's personal view of the history of the University of Gdańsk, this year celebrating its 50th anniversary,
- *Strategia Lokiego. Duńskie terytoria atlantyckie w II wojnie światowej* (Loki's Strategy. Danish Atlantic Territories in World War II), another publication by the military historian Krzysztof Kubiak, in which Northern Europe appears as a space for military operations,
- a monograph by Grażyna Szelałowska and Krystyna Szelałowska, entitled *Historia Norwegii XIX i XX wieku* (A History of Norway in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries), which is the first such extensive and multi-faceted study of the recent history of Norway on the Polish market,

- a book by Helena Garczyńska, in the field of translation studies, entitled *Norweski Ibsen. Polski Ibsen* (Norwegian Ibsen. Polish Ibsen), in which the author analyzes Polish translations of forms of address in selected plays by Ibsen, and at the same time presents inspiring interpretations of the Norwegian master's works,
- a monograph on cultural studies by Włodzimierz K. Pessel, entitled *Czerwono-biali i Biało-Czerwoni. Dania, Polska, Północ – problemy sąsiedztwa kulturowego* (Red and Whites and White and Reds. Denmark, Poland, the North – Cultural Neighborhood Problems), based, *inter alia*, on historical, political, ethnological, and anthropological studies, and entering into a dialogue with area studies oriented towards Northern Europe, such as Scandinavian studies,
- *Biografia jako pretekst. Modele współczesnych duńskich biofikcji* (Biography as Pretext. Models of Contemporary Danish Bio-fiction) by Joanna Cymbrykiewicz, in which the author, drawing on the prose of Dorrit Willumsen, Peer Hultberg, and Stig Dalager, proposes a discussion relating to genre differentiation within biographical literature,
- a book by Hanna Dymel-Trzebiatowska entitled *Filozoficzne i translatorskie wędrówki po Dolinie Muminków* (Philosophical and Translational Journeys in Moominvalley), which combines the research perspectives indicated in its title, draws attention to the virtuosity of the language and the multi-addressee nature of Tove Jansson's works, and the multidimensionality of the world she creates.

This year's issue ends with reports from two events in Gdańsk: the nationwide conference "Iconotexts 2019. Synergy of Words and Pictures" co-organized by the Interdisciplinary Research Group on Picturebooks affiliated to the Faculty of Philology of the University of Gdańsk; and a conference of students of the Institute of Scandinavian and Finnish Studies, which in its own way interrupted the period of social isolation caused by the pandemic.

We hope you find this issue of the journal offers some inspiring reading.